



Alternate Assessment and the Transition to the Montana Common Core Standards The National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)

In the spring of 2015, Montana will implement a new alternate assessment for grades 3-8 and 11 in English language arts and math based on the Montana Common Core Standards. Montana has partnered with NCSC and is beginning the transition to the new alternate achievement standards and alternate assessment this spring.

WHAT IS NCSC? The National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) is a project led by five centers and 28 states (18 core states and 10 Tier II states) to build an alternate assessment system based on alternate achievement standards (AA-AAS), developed from the Common Core Standards. Montana is a tier II state.

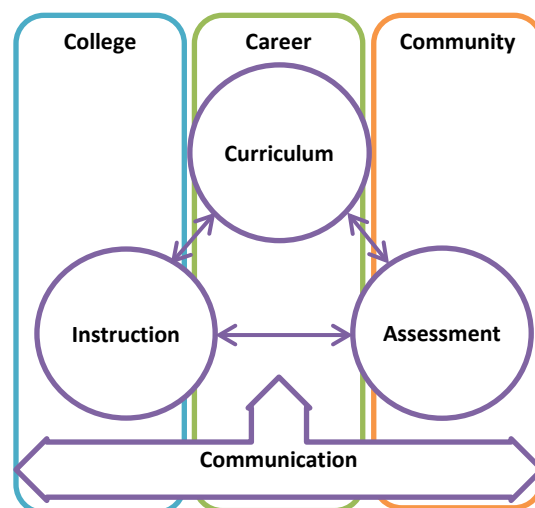
What is the goal of the NCSC? The goal of the NCSC project is to ensure that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities achieve increasingly higher academic outcomes and leave high school ready for post-secondary options.

How is Montana Participating in the NCSC? As a Tier II state, Montana has committed to provide professional development to assist teachers in implementing the new assessment system, understanding the alternate achievement standards (AAS), and utilizing the NCSC instructional resources. Over the next two years, special educators from across the state will have the opportunity to participate in item tryouts, item reviews, and pilot and field testing.

How will the Office of Public Instruction help school districts implement the new alternate achievement standards and alternate assessment system? As part of our participation in NCSC, we have brought together a diverse team of leaders in special education from across the state. This group is called the Community of Practice (CoP). Communities of Practice have been established in each state to support teacher training and use of the curriculum, instruction, and assessment resources. Resources will be available for use in all schools and districts, as locally determined.

When will the NCSC alternate achievement standards and alternate assessment be implemented? The new alternate achievement standards and assessments will be implemented in the 2014-2015 school year.

Is the NCSC project creating a summative assessment only? Not at all; the NCSC project includes the study of student learning characteristics and communication, the design of alternate achievement standards tied to the common core, formative, interim, summative assessments, instructional resources, and professional development resources.



What kind of professional development is available to help Montana schools implement the new alternate assessment and alternate achievement standards? Professional development will include trainings on NCSC curriculum resources: including the alternate achievement standards, instructional resources, the alternate assessment administration, and identification of student participants.

Where can I learn more?

NCSC website: www.ncscpartners.org
NCSC wiki: <http://wiki.ncscpartners.org>
On the OPI website:



2013-2014
Professional
Development,
Align IEPs,
Pilot Testing



2014-2015
Schools/Districts
Implement AAS
and Alternate
Assessment

http://opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/montCAS/MCCS/index.php#gpm1_6

Questions? Contact: Yvonne Field, Assessment Specialist, yfield@mt.gov or 406-444-0748